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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 001890

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [CASC](#) [KPAL](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: SETTLERS BEAT AND INJURE PALESTINIANS  
AND FOREIGN ACTIVISTS IN WEST BANK: MARCH 25-28 (1630 HRS  
LOCAL)

This message is sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly. This is a joint message from Embassy Tel Aviv and ConGen Jerusalem.

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The IDF reported no security incidents in the Gaza Strip between March 25-28. UNRWA reported that Palestinian militants fired small arms at Gadid settlement and fired a mortar shell at Netzarim settlement, causing no injuries. Israeli media reported that anti-disengagement "squatters" have occupied empty buildings in Gush Katif. In the West Bank, the IDF shot and injured a Palestinian motorist who reportedly refused to slow down at a roadblock, and Palestinian gunmen reportedly shot an IDF soldier during an IDF arrest operation in Jenin. Israeli security forces arrested eight PIJ members; two settlers attempting to enter the Haram al Sharif; and two IDF soldiers who reportedly attempted to sell an M16 to a Palestinian. Israeli settlers beat and injured several Palestinians and foreign activists in locations throughout the West Bank. End Summary.

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Gaza Strip  
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2. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Shootings: UNRWA reported that Palestinian gunmen fired small arms at Gadid settlement at 0800 hrs March 28. No injuries were reported.

-- Mortars: UNRWA reported that Palestinian militants fired a mortar shell at Netzarim settlement at 2330 hrs March 25. No injuries were reported.

-- Explosives: UNRWA reported that a Palestinian-made bomb exploded in Gaza City at 2230 hrs March 25. No injuries were reported.

3. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS/CHECKPOINTS

-- Israeli media reported that the holiday-related closure of the Gaza Strip was lifted March 27. Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open March 27-28 at both Netzarim and Abu Khouli checkpoints.

-- The Erez Crossing was open to diplomats, internationals, Palestinian laborers, and merchants March 27-28. UNRWA reported that 3,024 laborers and 368 merchants crossed into Israel March 28.

-- Erez Industrial Zone was open March 27-28. UNRWA reported that 570 laborers entered the zone March 28.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian workers, but open for the import of aggregates used in construction, March 25-28.

-- Karni terminal was open March 25-28.

-- Rafah Terminal was open, without age restrictions, for Palestinians March 27-28.

-- Tel al-Sultan and Toufa checkpoints were open March 27-28.

4. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

-- Israeli media reported that anti-disengagement "squatters" have occupied 280 of the 410 empty publicly-owned housing units in the Gush Katif settlement block. The GOI will reportedly require the Amidar company, who manages the units, to evict the squatters or pay a fine of NIS 60,000 per head.

-- Israeli and Palestinian media reported that several thousand unemployed Palestinians marched to the PLC offices in Gaza City on Sunday, protesting the lack of government assistance.

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West Bank  
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**15. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:**

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Israeli settlers severely beat a Palestinian woman near Ein Yabus, south of Nablus, on March 25, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Injuries: An Israeli peace activist suffered head injuries and five Palestinians suffered minor injuries during clashes with Israeli police during separation barrier protests near Qalqiliya on March 25, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Injuries: The IDF shot and seriously injured a Palestinian motorist who reportedly failed to slow down at an IDF roadblock on March 26, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Injuries: Israeli settlers from Ma'un settlement, south of Hebron, beat up four foreign peace activists accompanying Palestinian animal herders near Yatta village on March 27, according to Palestinian and Israeli newspapers.

-- Injuries: Several Palestinian and Israeli youths suffered minor injuries in scuffles that broke out near Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem, s Old City on March 27, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Injuries: Settlers beat up three Palestinian youths during a settler demonstration in Hebron on March 27, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Injuries: One IDF soldier was shot and injured in an arrest operation in Jenin on March 28, according to Israeli radio.

-- Attacks: Settlers from Yitzhar settlement, near Nablus, threw stones at and broke windows in Palestinian homes in Asira al-Qibilya village on March 25, and were dispersed by the IDF, according to Palestinian sources.

-- Attacks: A total of five firebombs were thrown at Israeli vehicles in the West Bank on March 27, in incidents near Helmesh settlement, west of Ramallah, and Salem village near Nablus, according to Israeli and Palestinian media.

-- Arrests: The IDF arrested two Israeli soldiers on March 27 on suspicion of selling an M16 to a Palestinian near Jenin, according to Israeli newspapers.

-- Arrests: Two Jewish settlers, apparently drunk, were arrested by Israeli police for trying to enter the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount on March 27, according to Israeli and Palestinian newspapers.

-- Arrests: The IDF arrested eight PIJ members in and around Jenin on March 28 for attempting to manufacture rockets, according to Israeli security sources quoted on Israeli radio.

**16. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:**

-- The Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), a key Fatah governing body, began a two-day meeting on March 27 in Gaza. The FRC is discussing holding primaries to identify the candidates who will run on Fatah, s party slate in July PLC elections. President Abbas, Prime Minister Quraya,, FM al-Qidwa and other PA officials in the FRC are currently attending.

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